

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7635

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMCONSUL ADANA

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E. O. 11652: NA

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SUBJ: BICENTENNIAL RECEPTION

1. BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION IN ISTANBUL WAS AN UNUSUALLY WARM AND WELL ATTENDED FUNCTION. MORE THAN 300 PERSONS ATTENDED (FROM A TOTAL INVITATION LIST OF 600) A COLORFUL RECEPTION HELD IN THE GARDEN OF THE CONSULATE GENERAL. CONSIDERING CELEBRATION WAS HELD ON SUNDAY EVENING DURING SEASON WHEN MAJORITY OF ISTANBULLUS ARE EITHER ON VACATION OR AT THEIR OUT-OF-TOWN SUMMER RESIDENCES, ATTENDANCE WAS REMARKABLE. MANY OF THOSE WHO COULD NOT ATTEND SENT WARM PERSONAL LETTERS TO THE CONSUL GENERAL OR WERE REPRESENTED BY OTHERS, AS IN THE CASE OF THE MILITARY, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN STAFF'S MEMORY BOUQUETS OF FLOWERS WERE SENT FOR THE OCCASION.

2. THE TURKISH OFFICIAL COMMUNITY IN ATTENDANCE WAS HEADED BY GOVERNOR OF ISTANBUL WHO ARRIVED AT BEGINNING AND STAYED FOR MOST OF RECEPTION. THE MAYOR OF ISTANBUL, DURING EARLIER COURTESY CALL BY CONSUL GENERAL, HAD REGRETTED THAT HE WOULD NOT BE PRESENT AS HE EXPECTED TO BE OUT OF TURKEY. FIRST ARMY COMMANDER PLANNED TO ATTEND BUT WAS PREVENTED AT LAST MINUTE BY INSPECTION VISIT OF GROUND FORCES COMMANDER. NONETHE LESS,
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THROUGH HIS DUTY OFFICER HE PASSED WARM CONGRATULATIONS AND SENT

A MAJOR GENERAL FROM HIS STAFF TO REPRESENT HIM. NORTH SEA AREA COMMANDER ALSO PREVENTED FROM ATTENDING DUE TO OPERATION SEA-WOLF-76 BUT HE SENT ADMIRAL IN CHARGE BOSPHORUS COMMAND IN HIS PLACE. SEVERAL OTHER SENIOR OFFICERS ATTENDED, INCLUDING A MAJOR GENERAL REPRESENTING LT. GENERAL YUKSEL, ISTANBUL GARRISON COMMANDER, WHO WAS ALSO BUSY WITH VISITING MILITARY RANK. NO REPRESENTATIVES FROM POLITICAL PARTIES OR LABOR UNIONS ATTENDED.

3. AT A TIME WHEN TURKISH-AMERICAN RELATIONS ARE FACING DIFFICULTIES, WARMTH OF OCCASION WAS EXTRAORDINARY. EVEN INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE ANTI-US IN ALL THEIR PUBLIC POSTURES(E. G. CUMHURIYET COLUMNIST ALI SIRMEN AND HURRIYET ASSISTANT EDITOR DOGAN KOLOGLU ATTENDED RECEPTION AND EXPRESSED THEMSELVES EMOTIONALLY ABOUT STRONG TIES THEY FEEL FOR AMERICAN PEOPLE AD THE COUNTRY AS OPPOSED TO U. S. GOVERNMENT.

4. DESPITE ABSENCES NOTED ABOVE--AND WITH POSSIBLE EXCEPTION DISK LABOR CONFEDERATION REPRESENTATIVES, THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT ANY ABSENCE WAS INTENDED AS A SNUB--THE OCCASION WAS AN UNQUALIFIED SUCCESS, DEMONSTRATING THAT DESPITE TURKISH RESENTMENT OF US CONGRESSIONAL ACTIONS, THERE REMAINS AMONG TURKS A RESERVOIR OF GOOD-WILL TOWARD THE USA AND THE AMERICAN PEOPL.

5. CONSULATE GENERAL REGRETS LATENESS OF REPORT WHICH RESULTED FROM PRESSURE OF OTHER URGENT COMMITMENTS. BATJER

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